

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

20 APR 1984

Leg 5  
PD 24

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Admiral John M. Poindexter  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
on National Security Affairs

**SUBJECT:** National Policy on Telecommunications and  
Automated Information Systems Security (U)

**REFERENCE:** NSC Draft Revision of PD/NSC-24, subject as  
above, dated 3 April 1984

1. The proposed NSDD does not accurately recognize the DCI's statutory responsibilities and authorities as outlined in Executive Order 12333, dated 4 December 1981; the National Security Act of 1947, as amended; the CIA Act of 1949, as amended; or other applicable laws. Language of principal concerns were discussed with [redacted] of NSA on 17 April 1984 and acceptable language, as outlined in Attachment 1, was developed. It is my understanding that NSA has agreed to the proposed changes. (C)

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2. Other issues we believe should be addressed are noted in Attachment 2. (U)

3. In view of the ongoing efforts by the Secretary of Defense, SIG(I), OMB, and the DCI to review current policies and procedures in the automated information systems security area and to recommend future courses of action, it seems premature to include automated information systems security in the manner set forth in the proposed NSDD. While I support the need for a consolidated effort to define proposed standards and to identify security products and services such as recently initiated within DoD, the roles of an Executive Agent and a national manager in this area need to be clarified. (C)

4. I fully support the need for an improved approach to dealing with problems in telecommunications and information systems security and believe we can reach agreement on how to deal with our immediate concerns. (C)

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[redacted]  
John N. McMahon  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

**Attachment:**  
As Stated

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NSC review completed.

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